

OPINION: TOMS DONATES MILLIONS
TOMS SHOE COMPANY DONATES MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS TO END GUN VIOLENCE.

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the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

VALLEY STAR DECEMBER 5, 2018



VALLEY LIFE: ART EXHIBIT
KARL BURKHEIMER'S SEMESTER-LONG ART
EXHIBIT FINISHES WITH A COLORFUL CANVAS.

WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM

LACCD confirms mold

Heavy rainfall has caused mold to develop in one of Valley College's buildings.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Water leakage from a major rainstorm last spring has led to a buildup of mold in some of the second-floor classrooms of Campus Center.

In April 2017, rain seeped through the roof of the CC building and leaked into the windows and walls of the classrooms on the east side. Environmental Health and Safety Specialist David Martin from the Los Angeles Community College District found no mold at the time of his inspection, though he did find low traces of lead in the paint.

Over the summer of that year, Director of College Facilities Tom Lopez sanitized the affected areas with bleach and covered them with a white, translucent, plastic tarp, and the leaky roof was fixed that August. According to the History, Humanities, Law and Political Science (HHLPS) Department Chair Michelle Lewis, the windows and walls were to be fixed in the winter, but the project was pushed, leaving some faculty frustrated.

"That's how they decided to fix it," history Professor John Dillion said. "I don't know if it's ever going to be fixed."

Currently, however, there are some traces of mold found in the classrooms. According to the minutes from a Work Environment Committee this past September, a specialist from LACCD conducted another mold test over the summer and measured mold levels higher than normal, although air samples were found to still be within safe levels for the rooms to be used. The document did state that the mold levels could affect "sensitive people."

While Lopez could not recall exactly what kind of mold is in the classrooms, he described it as "the same kind of mold [found] outside."

The document does say the affected areas were sani-

"That would explain why I'm sick all the time."

- Christopher Pallotti

tized and covered with a heavier (black) tarp. The current deadline to fix the walls is next summer, according to both Lopez and Lewis.

The Valley Star reached out to at least 10 professors who teach classes on the top floor of the Campus Center, most of whom were unclear or unaware of the mold. Psychology Professor Christopher Pallotti remarked, "that would explain why I'm sick all the time."

Some common types of mold are alternaria, aspergillus, chaetomium, penicillium, ulocladium and fusarium. Several of the ones listed originate from damp areas and are found outside. Although some cause minor damage, serious health risks can arise for people left untreated, like asthma attacks, allergic reactions and breathing problems.

New \$800,000 budget for Valley's Family Resource Center

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian was surprised with an endowment bearing his name after handing over an \$800,000 check for student center.



CHECK- (From left to right) Valley College Dean of Adult/Community Education and Workforce Training Doug Marriot, LACCD Board of Trustees Vice President Andra Hoffman, Valley's President Erika Endrijonas, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, Valley's FRC Director Marni Roosevelt and Valley's FRC Coordinator Amber Angel.

MONSERRAT SOLIS
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After securing an \$800,000 from a state budget carve-out for Valley College's Family Resource Center, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian was honored with the creation of 'Adrin Nazarian Scholarship and Endowment.'

Nazarian represents the 46th Assembly District, which encompasses the central-southern San Fernando Valley, and is the first Iranian-American to the California State Legislature. This week, he presented an \$800,000 check to Valley's President Dr. Erika Endrijonas, LACCD Board of Trustee member Andra Hoffman, Family

Resource Center (FRC) Founder and Director Marni Roosevelt, FRC Program Coordinator Amber Angel and Valley's Adult/Community Education and Workforce Training Dean Dr. Doug Marriot during a special reception.

"We originally asked for \$500,000 but he upped it to \$800,000 so it could do more at Valley," said Marriot.

The carve-out will allow the FRC to expand its facility on campus and create a satellite location to reach more student parents, workforce training participants and other vulnerable students, according to Valley's press release.

Currently, the FRC offers student-parent programs, par-

enting workshops, internships and provides a lactation room, diapers, wipes and formula. Since 2000 they have been supporting "vulnerable populations" like food and housing insecure students and workforce participants, according to their website.

"The Family Resource Center at Los Angeles Valley College is so lucky to have the support of Assemblyman Nazarian, who knew from the second he visited the FRC, that helping student parents holistically is part of ensuring their student success," said Endrijonas in the press release.

At the end of the reception, Nazarian was surprised with an endowment named after him, the 'Adrin Nazarian Scholarship

and Endowment,' which will be awarded annually to student parents.

Endrijonas and Patricia Balley, Valley's Foundation board president, donated \$100 to the new scholarship. The Foundation will also provide up to \$1,000 in matching funds.

If the Nazarian scholarship becomes endowed, this will be the first student-parent scholarship offer at Valley.

"It was meant to honor the student research center," said Marriot, "and it will be in his name."

Solomon Smith contributed to this article.

IMPORTANT INFO

The Sheriff's Office can escort students anytime, day or night. To request a safety escort on campus, contact the Sheriff's Office at (818) 947-2911.

ON CAMPUS

December 7

Biotech Bridge Training Academy Information Session will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Administration & Career Advancement (ACA) in room 2503.

December 8

The Holiday Concert will be held at the Theatre Arts (TA) Main Stage Theatre at 7 p.m. General tickets are \$25.

December 10

Final examinations start through December 16. Final schedule is posted below.

December 11

Students in the Commercial Voice classes will host a Commercial Voice Showcase at 7:30 p.m.

Final Schedule

DAY CLASSES

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY DEC 10			TUESDAY DEC 11		
Time of Exam	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 - 7:55 MW	9:40 - 10:50 MTWTh	1:00 - 2:10 MTWTh	6:30 - 7:55 TTh	9:40 - 11:05 TTh	1:00 - 2:25 TTh
	6:45 - 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 - 11:05 MW	1:00 - 2:25 MW		9:40 - 10:55 TThF	1:00 - 2:15 TThF
		9:40 - 10:55 MWF	1:00 - 2:15 MWTh		9:40 - 12:10 TTh	1:00 - 3:30 TTh
		9:40 - 12:10 MW	1:00 - 3:30 MW			
Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY DEC 12			THURSDAY DEC 13		
Time of Exam	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 - 9:25 MTWTh	11:20 - 12:30 MTWTh	2:20 - 3:30 MTWTh	8:00 - 9:25 TTh	11:20 - 12:45 TTh	1:45 - 3:10 TTh
	8:00 - 9:25 MW	11:20 - 12:45 MW	2:40 - 4:05 MW	8:00 - 9:15 TThF	11:20 - 12:35 TThF	1:45 - 3:00 TThF
	8:00 - 9:15 MWF	11:20 - 12:35 MWF		8:00 - 10:30 TTh	11:20 - 1:50 TTh	
	8:00 - 10:30 MW	11:20 - 1:50 MW				

EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M Dec 10	4 - 6pm	M	M Dec 10	4:30 - 6:30pm	M	M Dec 10	7 - 9pm
T	T Dec 11	4 - 6pm	T	T Dec 11	4:30 - 6:30pm	T	T Dec 11	7 - 9pm
W	W Dec 12	4 - 6pm	W	W Dec 12	4:30 - 6:30pm	W	W Dec 12	7 - 9pm
Th	Th Dec 13	4 - 6pm	Th	Th Dec 13	4:30 - 6:30pm	Th	Th Dec 13	7 - 9pm
MW	M Dec 10	4 - 6pm	MW	W Dec 12	4:30 - 6:30pm	MW	M Dec 10	7 - 9pm
TTh	T Dec 11	4 - 6pm	TTh	Th Dec 13	4:30 - 6:30pm	TTh	T Dec 11	7 - 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

To use the schedule below:

- Locate the day and hour of your class on the grid.
- Days of the week are abbreviated M T W Th F for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

- Except for classes of less-than-semester length, the LAST DAY OF REGULAR INSTRUCTION IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9.
- Classes meeting less-than-semester length will have the final exams at the last meeting of the class.
- FINAL EXAMINATIONS MUST BE HELD ON THE DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED AND IN REGULARLY ASSIGNED CLASSROOMS.
- FRIDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on December 14.
- SATURDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on December 15.

NEWS

Caravan chaos: Border patrol goes too far

A march at the U.S.-Mexico border escalated to chaos and tear gas where children were among those in the crowd.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

United States authorities closed off the busiest port of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border Sunday and fired tear gas at hundreds of immigrants including members of a Central American migrant caravan and children.

What started out as a peaceful march to appeal for the U.S. to speed processing of asylum claims erupted into chaos. Hundreds of migrants then attempted to breach barriers at the San Diego-Tijuana border crossing. Border patrol agents reported that a few people threw rocks at their agents, they chose to respond with tear gas and rubber bullets.

"They were being rushed by some very tough people and they used tear gas," said President Donald Trump. "Here's the bottom line: Nobody is coming into our country unless they come in legally."

United States Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said the administration's concerns about the caravan "were borne out and on fully display" Sunday. McAleenan continued noting that approximately 1,000 people attempted to rush vehicle lanes at the San Ysidro crossing. Mexican authorities estimated the crowd at 500.

Trump has painted this

caravan as an imminent national security threat for months. However, many of these peaceful migrants are fleeing poverty and violence in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The stated purpose of Sunday's march was for caravan members to be allowed to seek asylum in the U.S., or to meet with a representative of the US government. The protest reflected the growing desperation and

As of Friday, that of the 4,938 staying there, 933 were women, 889 were children and 3,105 were men, which includes fathers traveling with families along with single men.

frustration of Tijuana's waiting asylum seekers.

"As of Friday, that of the 4,938 staying there, 933 were women, 889 were children and 3,105 were men, which includes fathers traveling with families along with single men," said Mario Figueroa, Tijuana's social services department director.

Many people are furious



AFP/GETTY IMAGES | GUILLERMO ARIAS

CARAVAN- Hundreds of migrants near the U.S.-Mexico border were met with teargas. Children, women and men ran for their lives.

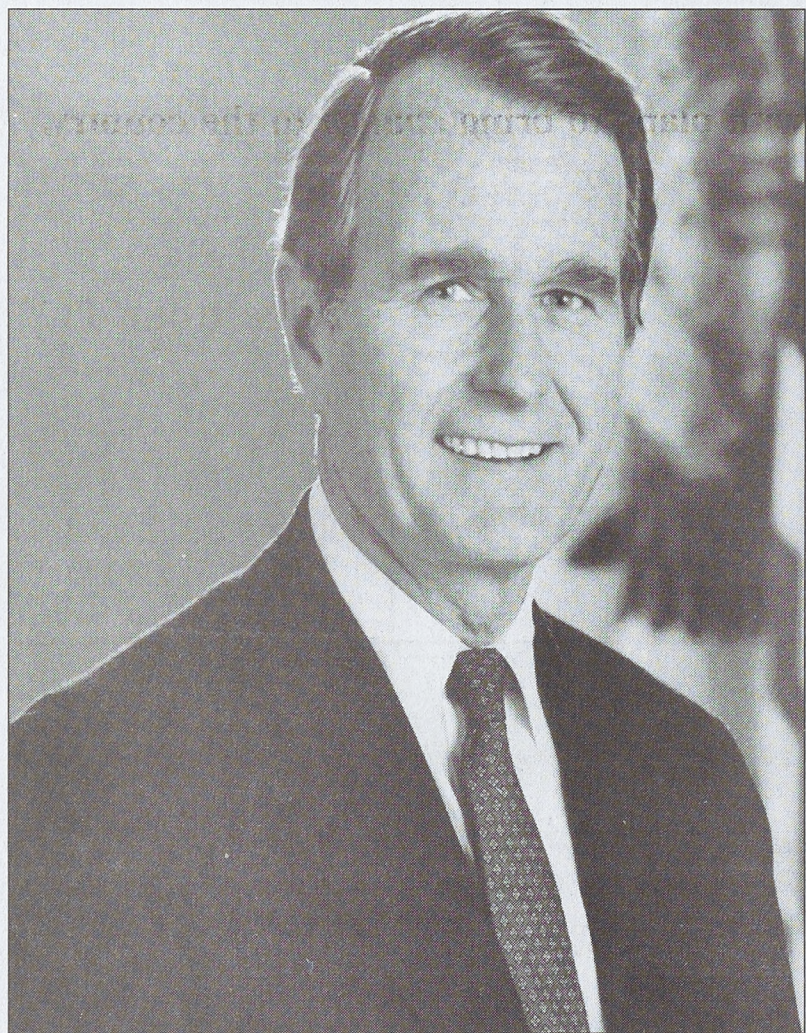
with the methods employed by border patrol. Not only do many politicians disagree with Trump's approval of the methods used to contain Sunday's event,

but they disagree with the way Trump continuously dehumanizes immigrants.

"These children are barefoot. In diapers. Choking on tear

gas," tweeted Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom. "Women and children who left their lives behind — seeking peace and asylum — were met with violence and fear.

That's not my America. We're a land of refuge. Of hope. Of freedom. And we will not stand for this."



THE WHITE HOUSE

BUSH- Portrait of the late president while he was in office.

41st President of the U.S. dies at 94

Former President George H.W. Bush passes away following the death of his beloved wife.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

George H.W. Bush passed away Friday night at his home in Houston surrounded by family.

The 41st president of the United States' passing follows the death of his wife, Barbara Bush, back in April. He was diagnosed with vascular Parkinsonism in 2012; a form of Parkinson's that affects the legs. The disease left him unable to walk, using a motorized scooter or wheelchair to get around during the last few years of his life.

"Jeb, Neil, Marvin, Doro and I are saddened to announced that after 94 remarkable years, our dear Dad has died," his son, George W. Bush said in a statement released Friday night.

"George H.W. Bush was a man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter

could ask for. The entire Bush family is deeply grateful for 41's life and love, for the compassion of those who have cared and prayed for Dad, and for the condolences of our friends and fellow citizens," the statement read.

No president before had arrived with such a vast experience. He was the son of a senator, a celebrated World War II combat pilot, Texas oil pioneer, Republican congressman, national party chairman, pioneering diplomat and spy chief. Bush served two terms as Ronald Reagan's vice president before reaching the peak of political power by winning the 1988 presidential election.

Signing landmark pieces of legislation, such as the first improvements to the Clean Air Act as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act, is one aspect of Bush's successful presidency.

One of the most iconic moments during Bush's presidency was the proclamation of the phrase, "Read my lips. No new taxes." This was in regards to the 1990 budget deal, which sought to address deepening deficits by raising taxes on the wealthy.

The honors graduate of Yale University had a free-spirited side lasting into his later years. Escaping death during World War II may be the root of the new attitude he adopted. Starting at 80, Bush started skydiving. Bush wanted to share this fearless nature with the world.

"I want the people — American people — to understand that just 'cos you're old, that doesn't mean you can't do things in life," said Bush in an interview with Colin Powell. "And I hope it inspires other people to get out the front door and mow the lawn or go out and

play shuffleboard."

Bush led a tremendous life through service. Serving as president and vice-president, a father and grandfather, a humanitarian and sportsman, among other ventures of public service that affected many people across the country. Americans worldwide are celebrating the life of and mourning the loss of the lifelong politician. Along with Bush's family, politicians of all parties are acknowledging the unfortunate passing.

"America has lost a patriot and humble servant in George Herbert Walker Bush. While our hearts are heavy today, they are also filled with gratitude," tweeted former president Barack Obama. "Our thoughts are with the entire Bush family tonight — and all who were inspired by George and Barbara's example."

Supreme Court suit could affect Apple's bottom line

A new case could change the way Apple does business and affect one of the company's most lucrative products.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Apple v. Pepper is a case recently added to the docket before the Supreme Court that will decide if Apple maintains its tight control over the Apple App store.

The case is not actually a suit against Apple Inc. itself, but is put before the court to decide if Apple is eligible to be sued by consumers under anti-trust laws. The laws were instituted in the early 1900's to break up many of the giant company's that were monopolizing steel and rail. Before these laws, America was the closest to being a free-market economy than it has ever, and Apple's business practices mirror those of Standard Oil,

locking-out and bullying competition.

Apple's closed ecosystem has been tightly controlled by the company, and many of their practices have recently come under fire. It was discovered that Apple had been intentionally throttling older phones with updates lowering their speed without telling the owners. Factory workers in China were overworked and underpaid to the point of suicide, prompting the company to put suicide nets around the top floors of their factories. Product sales of the latest iPhone have also caused low unit sales last fiscal quarter.

If the court allows Apple to be sued by consumers under anti-trust laws, it could force Apple to open up the market to third party sellers, who might not be required to provide Apple

with a share of the profits.

Today digital sales and services are almost 20 percent of Apple's total revenue up from about six or seven percent in 2012

Income from apps, music and other services has been a life line for Apple. These services, collectively, have earned Apple almost \$10 billion last quarter. Services have passed the value of almost everything at Apple

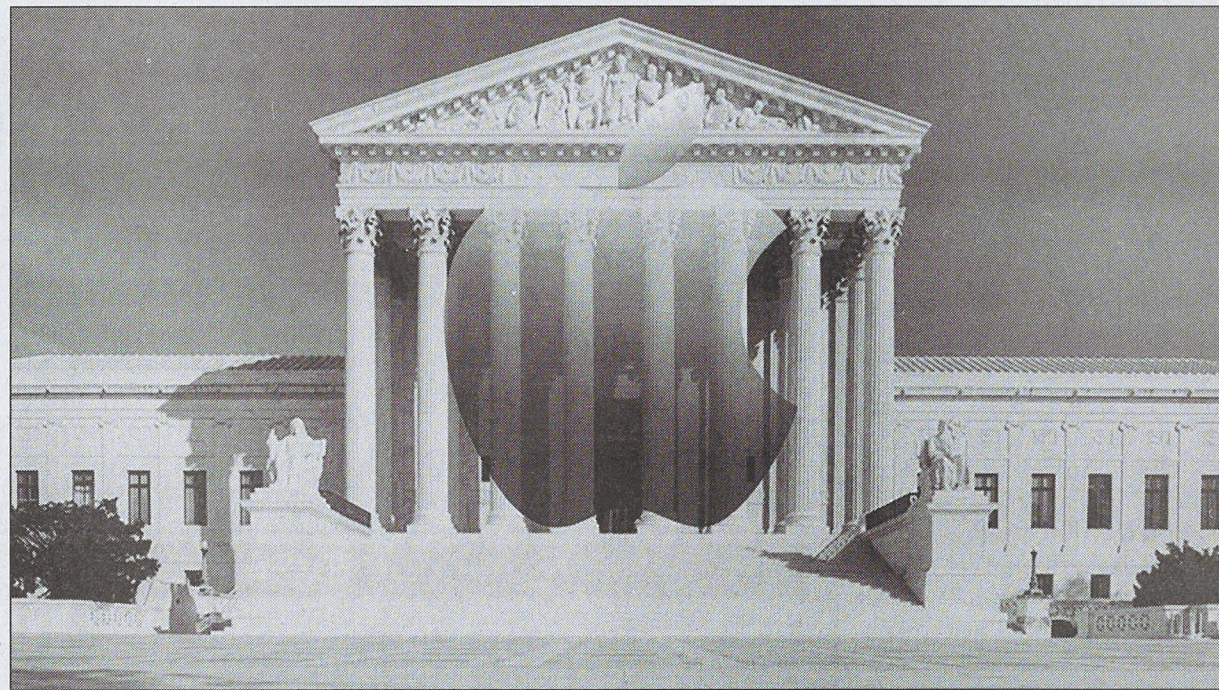


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | SOLOMON SMITH

SUIT- A pending court decision could cast a long shadow over Apple's business practices.

save for the sale of the iPhone. Today, digital sales and services are almost 20 percent of Apple's total revenue, up from about six or seven percent in 2012, according to Quartz magazine.

Proponents of the suit argue

that Apple's 30 percent take from every app in the store is a cost passed onto to consumers. This could be viewed as Apple adding an unnecessary cost burden on consumers which may violate anti-trust laws and would trig-

ger another trail at the Supreme Court.

The bottom line for consumers is that this could be the first step to opening up not only the Apple App store, but the entire ecosystem.

Global warming contributes to natural disasters

New global warming reports point to human activity, and the cause is natural disasters.

JESSICA AVA LANGE
ONLINE EDITOR

Two recent reports, one by the U.N. Panel on Climate Change and one by the United States government, discovered that human activity is contributing to global warming, and as a result, natural disasters are the biggest issue facing society.

"Increased forest fire activity across the western United States in recent decades has contributed to widespread forest mortality, carbon emissions, periods of degraded air quality and substantial fire suppression expenditures," according to a report released by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

The top five largest blazes have occurred within the last five years according to California fire records stretching back to 1932. Deadly wildfires scorching through southern California are undeniably linked to climate change. This year, wildfires in California broke records becoming the largest in state history, killing 79, destroying more than 9,800 homes and scorching 151,000 acres statewide.

California continues to remain in a drought due to climate change, and that has enhanced a fuel for fires to

spread faster and further. When the atmosphere warms, it holds moisture which leads to floods and more rainfall. The rising temperatures drive intense heat waves that warm the soil and suck water out of plants. Because of this, the state is in a severe drought. When all of these factors are combined, it is a recipe for wildfires.

California Gov. Jerry Brown said the severe fires were the "new normal" and added that years of drought and rising temperatures from climate change contributed to the worsening fire season.

As California copes with the aftermath of disastrous wildfires, massive rainfall potentially poses the next major threat to areas that have been victims of the blazing fires due to lack of vegetation. Water will roll off the soil instead of being absorbed into the ground.

Areas scorched by the

"I mean, we just go from fire season straight into floods and landslides."

- Patrick Purvis

Paradise Fire and Southern California's Woolsey Fire are at risk for mudslides, flash flooding and debris flow. The absences of shrubbery and plant life leave the hillsides exposed, and the steep geography in the Malibu area increase the possibility of the landslides similar to those impacted in Santa Barbara County following the Thomas Fire in 2017. Extreme rainfall will carry ash with contaminants and toxins into streams and rivers.

"We just can't catch a break with it right now in the county," Cal Fire battalion chief Patrick Purvis told CNN affiliate KOVR on Thursday. "I mean, we just go from fire season straight into floods, landslides."

THE ISSUE

Climate Change

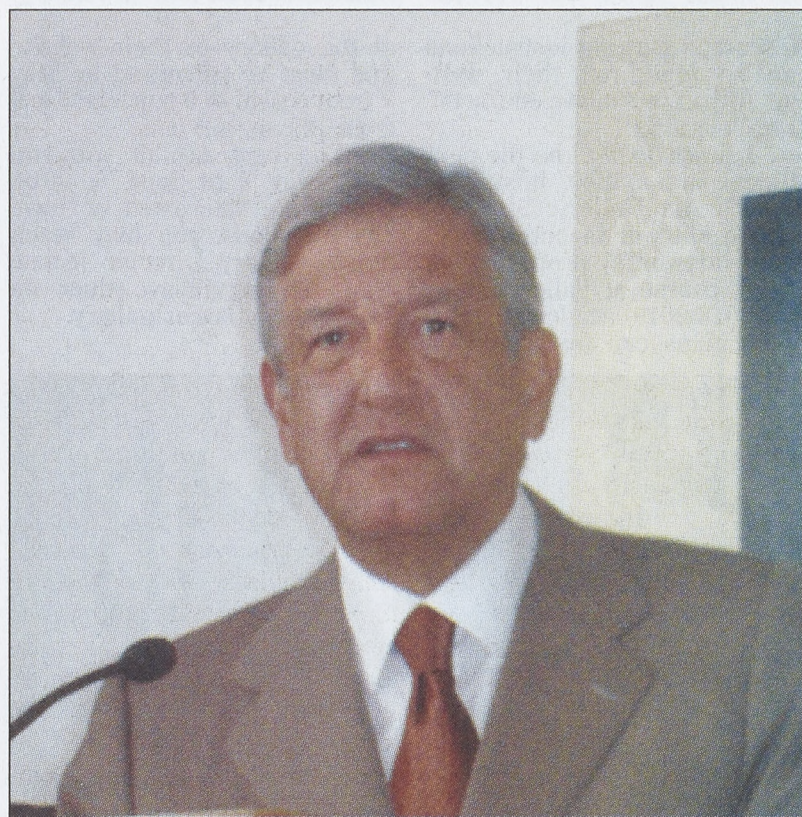
According to NASA, in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat marking the beginning of the modern climate era— and the end of human civilization.



FlickR | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region
FIRE- Wildfires, flooding and other natural disasters are becoming more prevalent according to studies.

Newly elected president of Mexico, Obrador, seeks to take country in new direction

After seven decades of corruption and poverty, a leftist is sworn into the office of president with plans to bring change to the country.



FlickR | DAVID AGREN

OBRADOR- Mexico has its next President, promising change.

KIMBERLY LINARES
STAFF WRITER

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador was sworn in as the new Mexican President Saturday, promising radical change in a country struggling with violence, poverty and corruption.

On July 1, Obrador won a landslide victory against his opponents with a vision for Mexico, which differed greatly from its current administration. Bringing about positive changes to a country that has not seen it in over decades.

During his swearing in, Obrador reaffirmed his intentions in selling Mexico's official presidential plane and to not live in Los Picos, the presidential residence. Along with his salary being reduced to 40 percent and adding a promise that he will never seek reelection. Cutting

out government graft will save enough money to pay for promised college scholarships for the young and larger pensions for the elderly.

"I no longer belong to myself, I belong to you, I belong to the people of Mexico," Obrador said in his first speech directed towards the nation.

Mexico will undergo a peaceful and orderly transition, but one that is deep and radical to ensure change.

"He was the first to give universal pension to seniors, he created 16 high schools in marginal areas," said Dario Manuel Lopez Pineda, a Mexican citizen, to CNN. "He created such seemingly insignificant things such as permanent driver licenses so that the government would not keep taking money from the people."

Obrador describes two basic failures within the Mexican gov-

ernment and believes that Peca Nieto is the one to blame. The first being, the corruption made present among the Mexican political elite, and the escalating crime violence that was ignored by the former president. Second, being the unequal economic growth and the failure to empower the country's underprivileged citizens over the past 30 years.

"Search and find, they are words that are short but impossible for the state," said Juan Carlos Trujillo in a video published by BBC News.

According to the National Public Security System, 2017 was the most violent year in Mexico since 1926. In the span of 12 months, 29,168 homicides were committed. Despite these numbers growing, public violence within Mexico does not diminish.

Corruption has long been a drag on Mexico, shaving an esti-

mated two percentage points off of Mexico's gross domestic product per year. Ten former presidents have been removed from office, jailed or placed under investigation on allegations of graft in the past few years.

"I look very much forward to working with him. There is much to be done that will benefit both the United States and Mexico!" said President Donald Trump in one of his recent tweet regarding Mexico's new president Obrador.

Among the challenges that the new government will face under Obrador will be deciding what to do concerning Tijuana and the Central American caravan there but he believes he will be up to the task.

"I want to go down in history as a good president," said Obrador.

Immigration process in America gets harder for youth

Undocumented youth face an uphill climb as entry into the country becomes more restrictive due to policies from the Trump administration.

MONSERRAT SOLIS
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Millions of children who have migrated to the United States without a birth certificate are now left with no identification— this has caused problems as they seek higher education.

Pascal Callejas, who appeared on 'Don Francisco Te Invita' on Telemundo, spoke about the time he discovered he did not have a birth certificate when he started to think about going to college under the DACA program, an American immigration policy that allows individuals who were brought to the United States illegally as a child a

renewable two-year deferred

49 percent of children under 5 are not registered around the world and children from the poorest household or belonging to minorities or indigenous groups and refugees are 20 percent less likely to be registered.

action from deportation.

Callejas was the first to receive a Mexican birth certificate after years of living in the United States without proper documentation, which was a huge win at the time because of the bureaucracy and the extensive process within the Mexican government, recalled Callejas. This process took legal help that many people are not able to find or pay for. Many are still waiting for this help.

According to UNICEF, 49 percent of children under the age of 5 are not registered around the world and children from the poorest household or belonging to a minority or indigenous group, and refugees are 20 percent less likely to be registered.

Since the Immigration

and Naturalization Act of 1965, the United States has opened its doors to family members of American citizens, skilled laborers and professionals and political refugees. In 2012, former president Barack Obama's executive order passed DACA which has opened the door for children who have grown up in America but are not citizens.

Earlier this year Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. is set to drop to 30,000 starting in fiscal year 2019. In 2019, 310,000 refugees and asylum seekers are expected to be processed. Since Trump has introduced "metering" to slow the number of legally pro-

cessed refugees at the border, it has become difficult for asylum seekers and undocumented people to enter the country

"I was raised to believe that education and knowledge were things no one can take away from you."

- Vanessa Delgado

legally. Last year, the Trump administration announced a plan to shut down DACA; meaning 800,000 youth could

lose their legal status.

In California, there were 242,339 DACA students attending college in 2017, according to the Migrant Policy Institute. DACA students all around the country have been worried about their education. Vanessa Delgado, a student from Trevecca Nazarene University, wanted to give up after Trump took office.

"I was raised to believe that education and knowledge were things that no one can take away from you," said Delgado in an interview with The Hechinger Report, "and that would lead to your dreams coming true. I believed that, and I still do."

‘Tautline’ exhibit reaches final phase

The collaborative artwork by Karl Burkheimer reached its final stage after months of student involvement.



ART- Students and art lovers join the closing reception of 'tautline', Karl Burkheimer's semester-long project at Valley College's art gallery.



VALLEY STAR | MONSERRAT SOLIS
CALUMA- Warped piece cut out of artwork stands next to canvas.



VALLEY STAR | MONSERRAT SOLIS
ANDERSON- Catherine Anderson's interpretation part of 'tautline.'

MONSERRAT SOLIS
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When artist Karl Burkheimer first introduced his 'tautline' exhibit, it was a blank canvas— now it showcases community.

The interactive project that started in September is coming to an end with a collaborative effort between Burkheimer and student artists from Valley College and Sun Valley Magnet. Burkheimer allowed students to add their mark in various forms from painting, wheat pasting and physically altering the artwork.

"Art is about the exchange. Without exchange it's nothing," said Burkheimer.

At first, Burkheimer recalled students choosing small sections to mark then gradually they became more comfortable with the piece and began marking bigger portions of the canvas making it their own.

"Visually small random eyes started to become bigger and come together," said Burkheimer about the community of student artists that began working on the canvas. Wanda Byrant, Alberto Keossian, Danilo Caluma and Catherine Anderson were some of the students from Professor Carter's Advanced sculpture class that contributed to the artwork. They were tasked with

removing chunks from the original artwork and translated what

"I had to modify and adapt to the artwork because it's forcing me to."

- Alberto Keossian

that meant to them.

Bryant cut a piece out of the artwork so people could walk below it without ducking, creating an idea of looking inside the interior of the piece, giving the observer a different perspective.

Keossian removed a piece from the artwork with a Sawzall, a type of saw commonly used in construction and demolition work, and placed it nearby. This allowed an observer to walk around, see it from all sides and its structure. "I had to modify and adapt to the artwork because it's forcing me to," said Keossian.

Caluma who carved a piece from a warped wall presented his version of the structure. The carved piece stood nearby, an onlooker could possibly think

it was about to fall over. But it stood there, creating tension.

"My purpose on the piece was based on structure, to have a sense of balance," said Caluma on why he chose to cut from a warped wall.

Anderson, who mixed Burkheimer's artwork with a previous piece, created a self-portrait by extracting a piece from a corner of the artwork and added repurposed wire and black tissue paper. Trying to convey grief from an abrupt ending to a relationship.

All students placed their own meaning to the canvas Burkheimer initiated, which was exactly what he wanted. Sharing ideas and becoming connected

"The viewer and the artist are always involved."

- Karl Burkheimer

through the artist community was important to him; creating student involvement.

"The viewer and the artist are always involved," said

Burkheimer.

"It's amazing to be able to do a project like this, it's time-consuming but we had fun," said Caluma. "I'm proud of everyone who worked on it and collaborated with the piece."

"I like the interaction, people are interacting without even knowing," said an onlooker.

'Tautline' will be on display at the art gallery until Dec. 6.

Hours and parking instructions can be found on their website <https://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.aspx>.

'Launch 19' will be the next student art exhibit hosted at Valley's Art Gallery. Students will be allowed to enter up to three artworks produced in an art course at Valley during the 2018-2019 academic year. Applications can be picked up

at the gallery or their website and must be submitted by May 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. or May 9 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The new exhibit will run from May 2 to Sept. 6, 2019. If you are interested or have any questions, you may reach out to Gallery Director Jenene Nagy at nagyj@lavc.edu or Instagram at [lavcartgallery](https://www.instagram.com/lavcartgallery).



VALLEY STAR | MONSERRAT SOLIS
CUT-OUT-Wanda Byrant pointed out her involvement, people can walk through the artwork with ease.

Santa & Sons Christmas Trees lot at Valley

Family-owned Christmas tree lot is bringing cheer and trees to Valley college after selling in the San Fernando Valley for 35 years.

ANDREA GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Santa and Sons Christmas Trees lot has been around for 35 years in the San Fernando Valley offering trees from an Oregon tree farm— this family-owned business offers a variety of trees at an affordable price.

The Santa & Sons Christmas Tree lot at Valley

College was introduced this year, intending to bring the family together. Including selections from a small Oregon family Christmas tree farm with high quality and fresh trees that are always displayed in the shade and kept fresh in water stands ready to be taken home.

"The cost of the trees depends on the varieties of what the customers are looking at and have everything, but an average tree starts off

at \$7.99," said the owner's daughter, Natalie Rohlfs.

Santa and Sons Christmas Trees is a family owned and operated Mom and Pop Oregon Christmas tree farm established in 1983. Their farm grows, sells and delivers beautiful fresh Nordmann Fir, Douglas Fir, and Noble Fir Christmas trees. Santa & Sons were selected by Los Angeles Magazine back in 2002 as one of the best Christmas trees in Los Angeles.

They support public farm operations and work with donation programs such as the LA family housing. Donating trees to families who are in transitional housing and others who cannot afford a tree during the holidays.

Christmas tree delivery is available throughout the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles County including, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Van Nuys, Valley Village, North Hollywood,

Burbank, Glendale, Altadena, Pasadena, Toluca Lake, Universal City, Hollywood, Downtown LA, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Westwood, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Encino, Tarzana, Reseda Canoga Park, West Hills, Agoura Hills, Chatsworth, Woodland Hills, Calabasas, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Northridge, Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Mission Hills and San Fernando.

"We've been here since 2001 and we usually sell until Christmas Eve," said the owner Mark Rohlfs.

Santa & Sons offer complimentary carryout and will securely tie down your Christmas tree onto your car.

The Christmas tree lot is easy to find and you can find it at the corner of Burbank Blvd and Coldwater Canyon and there is plenty of parking.

VALLEY LIFE

5

Art and friendship find a creative style

The Art Club is a great place for those looking to create and make friends.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Young artists surrounded a long table with a purple plastic table cloth; it's covered in cardboard pieces cut in different shapes and sizes to mimic pieces of food, an artificial lunch, but the project is not a class or for a gallery display.

"The robot that we have is a love sick robot, and if you check his breaker box all the levels are low and he is about to self destruct," said art club president Patty Hernandez with a broad smile. "He eats all day, freezer food and he attempts to call his ex-girlfriend on an hourly basis."

"What I like best about the club is that I can express in my own way and have my ideas get out there."

- Samantha Munoz

In the ceramic's art classroom, with its beige chairs and long tables, is the work space for the Valley College Art Club, which brings a varied group of people together all of whom have

a creative urge and desire to bring their imaginations to life.

Nineteen-year-old art major Samantha Munoz joined the club after moving to Los Angeles from Palmdale, Calif.

"I wanted to find people who had the same interests as me, hopefully the same major as me," Munoz said in a shy demeanor. "What I like best about the club is that I can express in my own way and have my ideas get out there."

Munoz plans on teaching 2D animation when she graduates.

Hernandez carefully painted red a jumbo rotary dial telephone, while another club member painted a matching red equally oversized phone hand piece.

"Right now we are making props for a photo set, so people can try on these props and take pictures in them," Hernandez said.

Hernandez, a 21-year-old humanities major, started the art club in 2017. It's in its third semester of existence. Hernandez has a constant smile and two very small stars tattooed under each eye. After being told there was no school art club, she was encouraged to start one on her own.

"I told a few friends and said, 'let's start the art club,' and they were down for it," said Hernandez. "They were like, yes we are the power team, let's

do this. In the summer, we got the group together and that fall semester we started the art club."

The current art club project

"I have been drawing my whole life. I like hanging out with people and seeing other people's art work"

- Stevie Rader

is a life size robot costume with a food tray and phone. It's a creation made with great care. Constructed completely from cardboard, the full chest and back plate will sport a large silver helmet. Painted in silver and blue with with a lavender neck ring and blue LED lights, the large helm has protruding cone shaped spikes from its sides and top. The robot's head looked like half a pin wheel.

The club members have an aqua tote bag sitting on the table full of color paint bottles and pencils, while a silver metal pitcher holds an endless number of paint brushes in various sizes. The club is self funded by recycling bottles and cans they



VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW

CLUB- Art Club members put together their project for their Halloween display.

collect. Every two weeks, \$20 dollars is earned and used for

"Art is more of a lifestyle than it is a hobby or a career for me."

- Patty Hernandez

paint and supplies. Members in the club are a

diverse group of people, male and female. The young artists laugh and tell jokes while working on their creation.

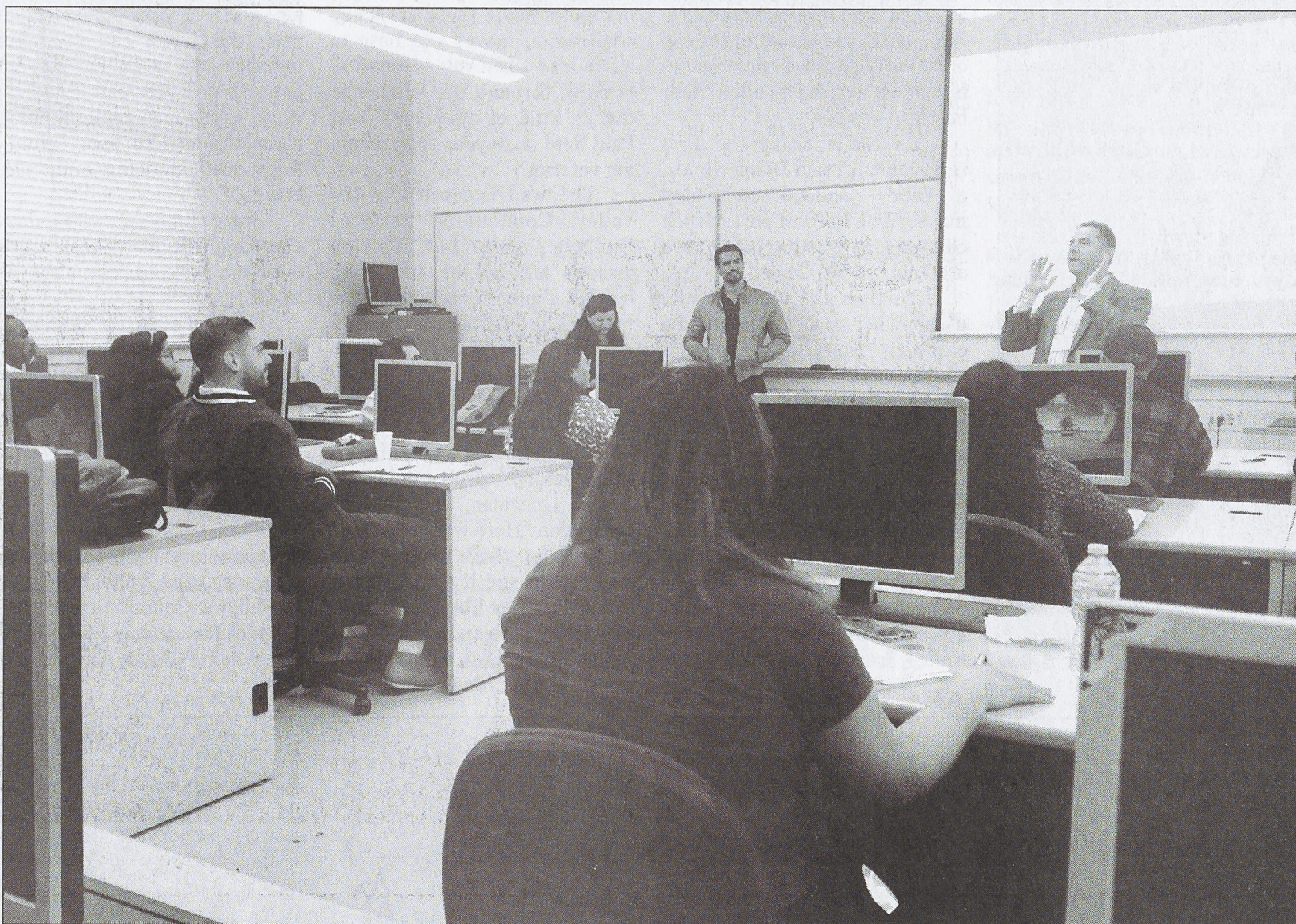
One of the club members, a tall and lanky young man with dark curly hair and a short scruffy beard, put on the robot's chest piece and tried his best to do a robot dance, while Stevie Rader focused on painting what were supposed to be french fries. The 27-year-old Rader is an animation major at CSUN who transferred from Valley. She

still attends the club meetings at Valley.

"I have been drawing my whole life," Rader said. "I like hanging out with people and seeing other people's art work."

The robot's completion deadline is fast approaching and its chest still needs to be painted. The other props are near completion. They will be part of a Halloween display.

"Art is more of a life style than it is a hobby or a career for me," said Hernandez.



VALLEY STAR | GABRIEL ARIZON

CONFERENCE- Professor Tasos Sioukas gives a presentation on business tips and an entrepreneur boot camp.

Students get business advice from entrepreneur conference

The Business Department and Club co-organized an event for people to get tips in forming a career path.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College Business Administration Department and Business Club hosted a Entrepreneurship Conference filled with 160 attendees to learn from experts and professors on how to start their busi-

ness and enhance their skills. The Business Administration Department hosted its third annual conference on Nov. 16, offering six hour-long breakout sessions to attendees, where the professionals and faculty could interact with them.

Attendees could only choose one of the sessions: a Start Up Boot Camp, a Entrepreneurship

Retreat, Awareness Through an Entrepreneurial Mindset, Showcasing a Career in Animation, Film and Media, Turning a Passion from Fitness to a World Wide Journey and Accounting, Taxation and Financial Planning.

"The vision for this event is to change the mindset of all of our attendees," Business Club

President Gayane Hovhannissyan said. "Change the way you think, learn something new, walk away from this conference having met someone new."

Professor Tasos Sioukas hosted the boot camp session, which is designed to help others create a business plan. The boot camp is funded by the Strong Workforce Program of

California (an initiative aimed at boosting the number of skilled workers produced by community colleges) and is free. It is to take place in mid-Spring 2019 on Saturday afternoons over the course of six weeks. While anyone can participate, Professor Sioukas said it is ideally for those who have taken Business 1 and Management 13, as well as those are eager about it and not those who only have a mild interest in the program.

"Basically, we work [with] students from an idea to a full market frame, giving them the boost to get started," Sioukas said. "In order to get your business started, the most important thing is to take action, not to think about it and keep planning it."

Another session was hosted by Steven T. Seagle, a writer that has worked with comics, television, animation, film and live theater. He co-created the Marvel superhero group, Big

"The thing I get too much of is I want to write or I want to be in film or whatever ... and I say pick one."

- Steven Seagle

Hero 6, and is part of Man of Action Studios, which created the animated series "Ben 10." His session was about his experience in the entertainment industry and giving advice to students.

"I was a terrible college student, very unclear about what I was doing, so I like to come back and talk to people and say that's ok, it will all work out," Seagle

said. "The thing I get too much of is I want to write or I want to be in film or whatever ... and I say pick one. I think you have to

"If you're not here, you're missing out on the opportunity."

- Kevin Sanford

define who you are in the entertainment industry."

While the attendance was lower than the 300 at last year's conference, Professor Kevin Sanford was pleased with the student reception.

"Several students came up to me and thanked me for inviting them so they could actually hear the speakers," Sanford said, "and I talked to different students that were in each of the sessions, and so they all got something out of each of them, which is actually pretty impressive. If you're not here, you're missing out on the opportunity."

To sign up for the boot camp or the entrepreneurial retreat, contact Sanford at sanforkr@lavc.edu or Sioukas at sioukaav@lavc.edu. There is currently no deadline to sign up.

THE FACTS

According to a 2016 report by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, over 25 million Americans were starting or running new businesses in the United States, with women more likely to deliver innovative products.

6

VALLEY LIFE

Malek is Killer Queen

The music and performances shine in this biopic, though some details feel lacking.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

As a history of the band, “Bohemian Rhapsody” comes up short, but it rocks as a biopic of one of the most fascinating personalities in modern rock.

First, know that “Bohemian Rhapsody” is not about the band. There are some great scenes that talk about the making of some of Queen’s iconic songs, but they are merely additional ingredients in a mix that, according to the movie, used Freddy Mercury’s raw talent as the base.

Remi Malek was the perfect choice to play Mercury. He portrays him as a sexually ambiguous, shy and unsure man, but is also able to emit the command of the stage that Mercury had when performing.

Mercury was known for his trademark overbite. For many actors, prosthetics mimicking the features of a character can be distracting but Malek man-

ages to use them to full effect. Watching him attempt to hide his teeth when talking or smiling add nuance to the character that many fans of the band will be familiar with.

Music is the only other star of this movie, and the music of Queen is used subtly and effectively throughout. Instead of trying to reinvent the wheel, Music Director John Ottman uses snippets of music from their catalogue and unreleased recordings to echo in the background of scenes, accentuating and making small moments much more powerful. Malek also received a little help from singer Mark Martel, who adds vocals to the unreleased masters, and gives the live performances the sound needed to match Malek’s powerful performance. This is exactly what a movie goer is waiting to hear—clear, clean, crisp use of music from Queen.

The only real complaint here is that the movie never goes far enough. There is very lit-

tle criticism of Mercury. The path of self-discovery of a man who starts out conflicted about his sexuality is missing, a lost

“Uneven pacing and shallow writing cannot ruin a movie filled with Malek’s inspired performance.”

opportunity to add depth to a movie that has everything but. Malek’s performance was excellent but often he seems to pace, waiting for conflicts that never come.

The film attempts to place most of the villainy elsewhere and misses the opportunity to explore the men that make Queen. Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon—played by Gwilym Lee, Ben Hardy and Joseph Mazzello, respectively,

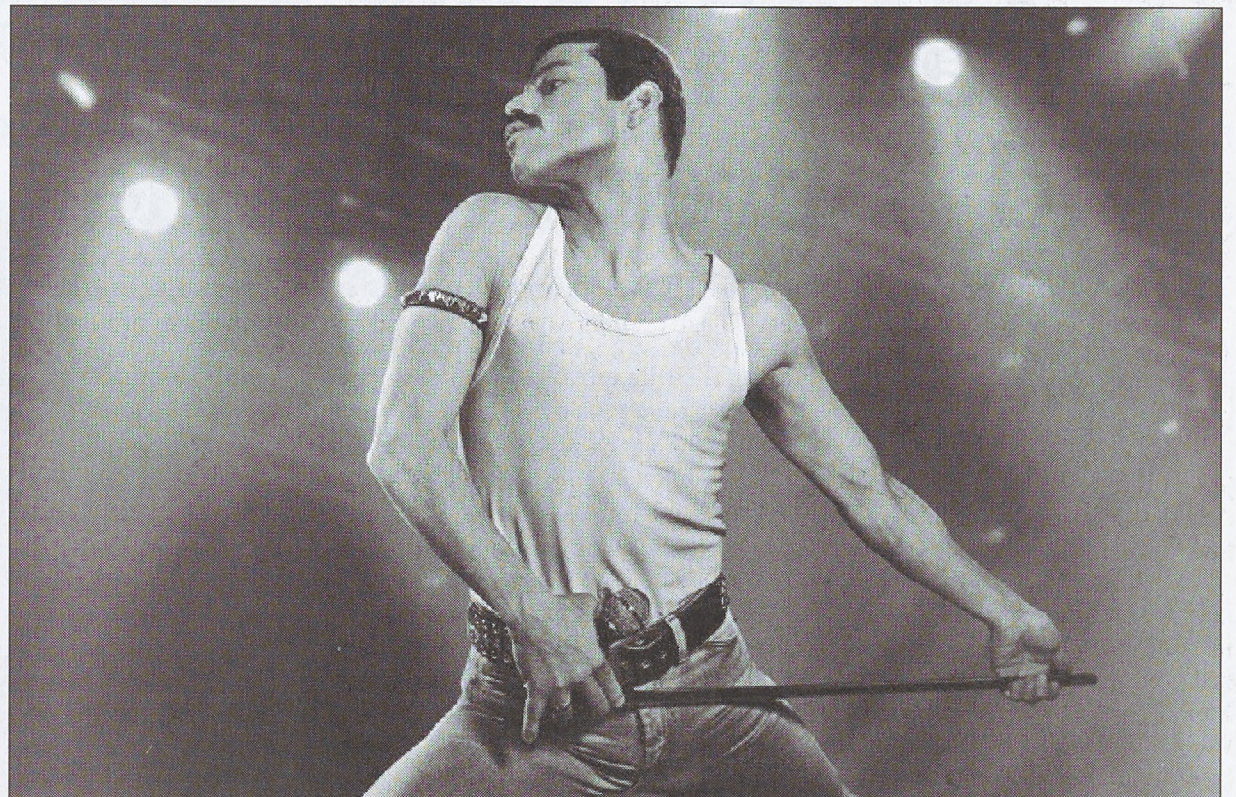


PHOTO COURTESY OF | TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

FILM- Remi Malek gives an incredible performance as the late singer, Freddie Mercury.

are rarely given anything to do. Hints about flaws in the other members of Queen are dropped in one-line quips but never explored; brilliant insight from intelligent, interesting musicians become brief side notes, hollowing out the script.

“Bohemian Rhapsody” is a

love letter to the music of Queen, one even an occasional fan of the band will enjoy. For those few not familiar with the music of Queen, uneven pacing and shallow writing cannot ruin a movie filled with Malek’s inspired performance.

VALLEY’S STARS

★★★★★
Rated PG-13
Stream It

Indoor climbing at Valley

People young and old can check out the school’s indoor climbing wall.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The wall is ominous, standing tall and towering over the climbers gathered to challenge their bodies and nerves.

The climbers tightened the laces of their rock climbing shoes, while other climbers adjusted their waist harnesses. The goal is to make it to the top of the wall and not come crashing down on the padded floor below.

“It’s really scary the first time you fall,” said Diana Nunez, a Valley College chemistry major. “The hardest part of rock climbing is trusting when you are going to fall.”

Trusting the belayer, the person holding the climber’s climbing rope, is important. The climber’s waist harness is attached to the rope and, if they fall, the belayer will stop the climber’s fall using the rope.

The wall is covered in multi-colored hand grips: orange, blue, white, red and green. The large grips are called jugs and the small ones are crimps. Each color marks a route climbers follow and the routes are graded in difficulty from easy to very hard. The

climbing wall also has ledges, cracks, over hangs and a half tube indentation. All of these make the gym’s climbing wall’s surface resemble an outdoor natural rock wall. The climbers reach, stretch and contort their bodies to place their foot or hand on the next grip. Carefully they make their way up the wall.

“When you are working on a particular route there are some challenging moves you have to make, and when you successfully move through that challenge that is kind of awesome,” said Paul Reid, a 10 year rock climbing veteran.

The wall is located at the Valley Community Services Building, where kid climbing classes are taught and older newbie climbers are shown the ropes. The climbers are a variety of people, from young to middle age, women and men. All are under the watchful eye of the climbing teacher.

“It’s definitely a good hobby to get into. It’s pretty fun,” said Steven Gonzales, the climbing instructor. “Here we are focused on getting them started, on learning to see if this is something that they like. And if it is, how to improve and get better.”

Gonzales is an alumni of the gym. He took his first climbing

class at Valley.

“I had to take a PE class for my major, and I thought rock climbing sounds cool so I will take the class and I really liked it,” said Gonzalez. “So I started coming to our open gym here.”

The climbers at the wall are just a few of the millions of climbers in the United States. According to IBS World, a market research and analyst company, the indoor climbing gym industry has risen 7.2 percent over the last five years. Many of these gyms host rock climbing competitions like sport climbing, speed climbing and bouldering.

Some climbers prefer indoor climbing, but many also enjoy outdoor rock climbing as well.

“It’s nice to be outdoors. Because it is enjoyable to be in nature,” said Anthony Toribio. “But you can climb a lot more indoor and more frequently. You don’t have to worry about weather and you don’t have to hike to get into the climbing spot.”

The rock climbing gym is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Valley’s Community Service Center. The cost is \$8 per person, which includes the climbing gear.



VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW

WALL- A student practices climbing up the wall located in the Community Services Building.

Creed delivers another knockout

Steven Caple Jr. delivers a more than worthy sequel that offers both great performances and fights.

URI VAKNIN
STAFF WRITER

“Creed2,” directed by Steven Caple Jr. and starring Michael B. Jordan, Tessa Thompson and Sylvester Stallone, continues the story of Adonis Creed, the son of Apollo Creed from the Rocky films.

Adonis is soon challenged for the boxing championship belt by Victor Drago, the son of Ivan Drago, who killed his father in the ring decades ago. With the training and guidance of Rocky Balboa and his family, Adonis takes on his greatest battle yet.

“Creed 2” is a solid follow-up to the first one, with great performances and plenty of emotional scenes throughout. Much like the first “Creed” and other Rocky films, “Creed 2” flows along a predictable story but

shows heart and is engaging enough to overlook that.

There is a new director at the helm of this one, with Caple directing instead of Ryan Coogler. Coogler did an amazing job with the first film creating an immersive and visceral atmosphere and that feeling is definitely not lost here. Caple fills his role and made a great sequel to its predecessor.

The tone is still consistent and really feels like a two chapter story rather than a cash grab. It is clear the film was made with love and respect for the previous movies and still holds up well on its own.

The whole cast is terrific in this film, with Jordan and Stallone as highlights. Jordan upstages his performance from the first one. The conflict is

much more personal for him this time around as he chooses to

“[Steven] Caple and the crew knocked it out of the park.”

avenge his father in the ring while trying to start a family.

Stallone returns as the beloved Rocky who’s also connected to Adonis’ conflict this time around, having already faced Ivan Drago and being in Apollo’s corner the night he died.

Florian Munteanu plays Victor Drago and Dolph Lundgren reprises his role as Ivan Drago, who both do a decent job as the antagonists in the film. They are both towering and intimidating, and the

movie does a good job presenting Victor’s ruthlessness in the ring. They are also fleshed out as characters rather than one-dimensional villains where audience members can sympathize with and understand their motives as well.

The fight scenes are filmed and put together masterfully, where the audience can really feel the impact of each punch. It is clear that both Jordan and Munteanu have trained hard for their respective roles, showing genuine fighting technique and genuinely coming across as two boxing champions.

The score is also amazing, with a few musical callbacks to the original Rocky movies here and there. It flows really well with the film, especially during the obligatory training



PHOTO COURTESY OF | WARNER BROS.

MOVIE- Michael B. Jordan and Sylvester Stallone shine once again.

sequences, where the audience gets pumped up along with the characters, and just adds a lot of heart to the overall product.

All in all, Caple and the crew knocked it out of the park, delivering a solid sequel that was fun to watch.

VALLEY’S STARS

★★★★★
Rated PG-13
Worth the Money

VALLEY LIFE

7

Hollywood's oldest gem

Hollywood's Pantages Theatre has seen and curated rich history and performance for decades.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

Located on Hollywood and Vine, the Pantages Theatre's stunning architecture and transformative stage has brought insurmountable amounts of joy and entertainment to Los Angeles residents and theatre lovers worldwide for decades.

Built in 1930, the theater is the last movie palace built in Hollywood as well as the last venue built by Alexander Pantages, the Greek American vaudeville and early motion picture producer. The Pantages survived many unforeseen obstacles throughout the years, such as the Great Depression and the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake. Through the ups and downs of the economy and the entertainment industry, the Pantages transpired as the major presenting house for Broadway on the West Coast.

"The tourists who come to Hollywood and to the Los Angeles area discover the Pantages, but when we have West Coast premieres like The Lion King, Wicked, or The Book of Mormon, they come here from all over the Western United States specifically for the shows," said Pantages' general manager Martin Wiviott in an interview with Broadway Direct. "Of course, once they are in Los Angeles, they are going to stay for two or three days, but the focal point of what they are doing is coming to the theatre."

Steps away from the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Pantages remains a statute of old Hollywood. The theatre's exterior features a streamlined marquee with attraction signs on three sides using large, translucent letters. Accompanying the dazzling marquee is a pink and turquoise vertical Pantages sign that is lighted by high-intensity neon. The grand foyer is studded

with flush-mounted downlights; the box office sits off to the right and on the left side hangs a gold-leaf glass casing where previous or current theatre production show posters and press photos are displayed.

The outside of the theatre, as striking as it may be, does not compare to the detail and architecture of the interior. Whether one sits in the mezzanine or in floor seats, the architectural sophistication can be viewed and appreciated from all angles. Designed at the epitome of the Art Deco era, B. Marcus Priteca created a 2,703 seat theatre with intricate gold leaf ceilings, extravagant balconies, art-deco style chandeliers, and two gorgeous ornate staircases on each side of the theatre. During the remodel in 1960, all the theatre chairs were replaced with beautiful maroon mohair seating.

"I love this theater, it is just so beautiful," said Angela DeDios, season ticket holder.

"Yes, it is a little dated but that is part of its charm. You do not update perfection. I can seriously just sit in there and stare at its magnificence for hours."

The electric feeling once inside the theatre results from the magical performances and events held at the Pantages. The annual Academy Award ceremonies were held at the Pantages throughout the 1950's and the Emmy Awards were held there each year until 1977. The theatre has housed upward of 100 theatre productions. The easily transformable stage serves as a blank canvas to create a multitude of settings, time periods, and elaborate musical performances.

"I've seen many shows here that I have also seen on Broadway in New York," said Nicole Mohr, theatre teacher and season ticket holder. "I love that the Pantages stage is so big that they can actually do cooler things with tour sets here than



VALLEY STAR | MEGAN JACKSON
THEATER- The Pantages Theater has been around since 1930.

they do on stage in New York. Touring sets here are almost always better than the New York sets."

The Pantages provides a transcendent experience to

all who enter its glory, maintaining its reputation as one of Hollywood's most treasured theatres.



VALLEY STAR | JOSEPH GONZALEZ
BASEBALL- Isaac Dominguez used to play for the Valley College baseball team as a shortstop.

Former player, new coach

An ex-Monarch shortstop returns to Valley College as an infield coach.

JOSEPH GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College baseball team welcomes its newest coach, Isaac Dominguez who hopes to put the passion and love he has for the game into teaching young players.

Since 4, Coach Dominguez has been enamored with baseball. Twenty years later, those strong emotions remain with him and keep him wanting to surround himself with the game. After his collegiate career at Cal State Los Angeles, he was looking for a way to keep baseball in his life and found it here at Valley by joining his former coach Dave Mallas' coaching staff as the new infield coach.

"I knew I wanted to become a coach when I realized how baseball has shaped the person I am today," Dominguez said. "After realizing the lifelong lessons baseball taught me, I knew I wanted to pass that forward in order to lead young players down a positive path."

Baseball has always been in Dominguez's blood as he comes from a family of Yankees fans and baseball fanatics. He came to Valley in 2012 and later became

the starting short stop, where he compiled a .950 fielding percentage and, one year, was second on the team with 39 hits. Dominguez said the family environment is what he loved about playing for the Monarchs. This feeling stuck with him throughout the years after Valley and made him always want to come back to join Mallas.

"I wanted to coach at LAVC because it is my alma mater, but most importantly because of Coach Mallas," Dominguez said. "Coach Mallas values life and baseball greatly. He always teaches his players how to be respectful. With that being said, he is a great resource to learn from for my future in becoming a head coach."

Dominguez spent his career as a shortstop. On the field, he was known for being smooth with the glove and giving off great energy with his short motivational speeches to teammates. His coaching style and playing style tend to be similar.

"Issac, in his two years here, was one of our leaders," Mallas said. "He spoke well to the team, and I knew coaching will be something in his future through the way he communicated with

teammates. So it's good to see that through his coaching."

Energy is something important to find from both players and coaches on a baseball team. Dominguez finds that easy to do as he is known to bring that to the field for each game and the practice the team has.

"Every practice he is always ready to get after it," sophomore Catcher Alec Keeling said. "His knowledge is apparent with the all drills he has the players practice to improve their fundamentals. His energy creates an environment where players want to give it their all while helping them focus on goals."

With the Fall season almost complete, the Valley team is looking forward to spring. This is where the hard work from practices, weight rooms and visualization pays off in the transition to the field.

"I look forward to gaining experience as a first time coach," said Dominguez. "But mainly look forward to our players developing. Our main goal is be state champs, but if our players are able to become better players on and off the field then that's where we have done our job as coaches."

Honnold's climb to the top

National Geographic's rock climbing documentary is an impressive and nail-biting showcase of a man's extraordinary athletic achievement.

URI VAKNIN
STAFF WRITER

"Free Solo," a National Geographic documentary directed by Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, centers on Alex Honnold, the only person to have climbed the 3,000 feet summit of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park without a rope.

The personal documentary showed Honnold's personal life and psyche as he risks his life for his monumental goal. The film does a great job profiling him, allowing the audience to see the man behind the feat, highlighting his quirky personality but extraordinary determination.

The film is pieced together well, maintaining a clear focus on Honnold and his one true hobby of free soloing- climbing with no gear. The narrative glides over how he developed this dangerous love from his early years and the effects it

has on the people around him, but doesn't dwell too much on these aspects. It keeps the film at a steady pace and maintains interest without ever feeling like it drags on.

It is truly impressive to see Honnold's dedication to free soloing, having climbed other notable locations before El Capitan without gear. He had already gained mainstream recognition in 2012 after free soloing the Regular Northwest Face of Half Dome in Yosemite Valley. He also free-soloed Zion's Moonlight Buttress in 2008 and did both Astroman and Rostrum in a single day in 2007.

Professional rock climbers and his friends were behind the camera, carrying the daunting responsibility of capturing Honnold's climb. They know that at any given moment, their friend could fall out of frame and to his death.

His girlfriend, Sanni

McCandless, added emotional weight to the documentary as she copes with the anxiety of Honnold's love for harness-less climbing. The documentary did a great job reflecting the tense and nerve-racking ride for everyone involved.

The film is also shot masterfully, giving the audience a true sense of the scale and scope of free soloing. There are some shots while Honnold is climbing that is so visceral, it feels as if you are up there with him. It does a superb job evoking a sense of vertigo making it all the more impressive, yet nail-biting to watch.

It was an incredible documentary to witness, one that can be enjoyed and appreciated by people who aren't big fans of rock climbing. Hats off to Honnold and everyone involved in the stressful production of this film.



PHOTO COURTESY OF | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
DOCUMENTARY- Alex Honnold became the only person to climb the summit of El Capitan without a rope.

OPINION

DACA faces a dark and uncertain future

Jin Park could face deportation under the Donald Trump administration after winning a life-changing scholarship.

LEE VILLANUEVA
STAFF WRITER

The University of Oxford exceeds expectations offering famed scholarship to undocumented Jin Park, who now faces immediate deportation after mastering Harvard with honors.

Jin Park and his family migrated to the United States when he was seven and dwelled in New York City. He currently mastered in molecular and cellular biology and minored in migration and rights at Harvard.

In 2012 when Barack Obama's DACA was announced, it single handedly forever changed Parks uncertain future. The young prodigy recounted growing up in constant fear with his family and having to constantly be mindful of their surroundings. They had to keep their citizenship status quiet and feared encountering immigration agents. After DACA came into order, Park claims to have felt less vulnerable and protected from deportation from the only place he knew as home.

Amongst working at MIT as a cancer research assistant for integrative medicine, he has now been awarded the Rhodes

Scholarship, which allows 32 individuals from the United States to study at Oxford. The scholarship was created in 1902 as to secure a way for diversity and inclusion of the scholasticaly gifted.

Park is unable to celebrate such an accomplishment because, under the Donald Trump administration, fears reentry into the country upon graduation.

The current administration has left over 800,000 young DACA recipients nationwide in fear of an uncertain deportation after graduation. The 2012 Presidential executive order created permits for people brought to the United States under 17, which was designed to be renewed indefinitely and in no way offer a path to citizenship. The Trump administration has opted to phase out the program and is no longer accepting DACA applications.

"I found out my legal status when, after applying for an internship at a hospital in Manhattan, the interviewer said, 'sorry Jin we do not allow illegal aliens to take part in the program,'" Park said.

Now the young Einstein is preparing for possible lawsuits

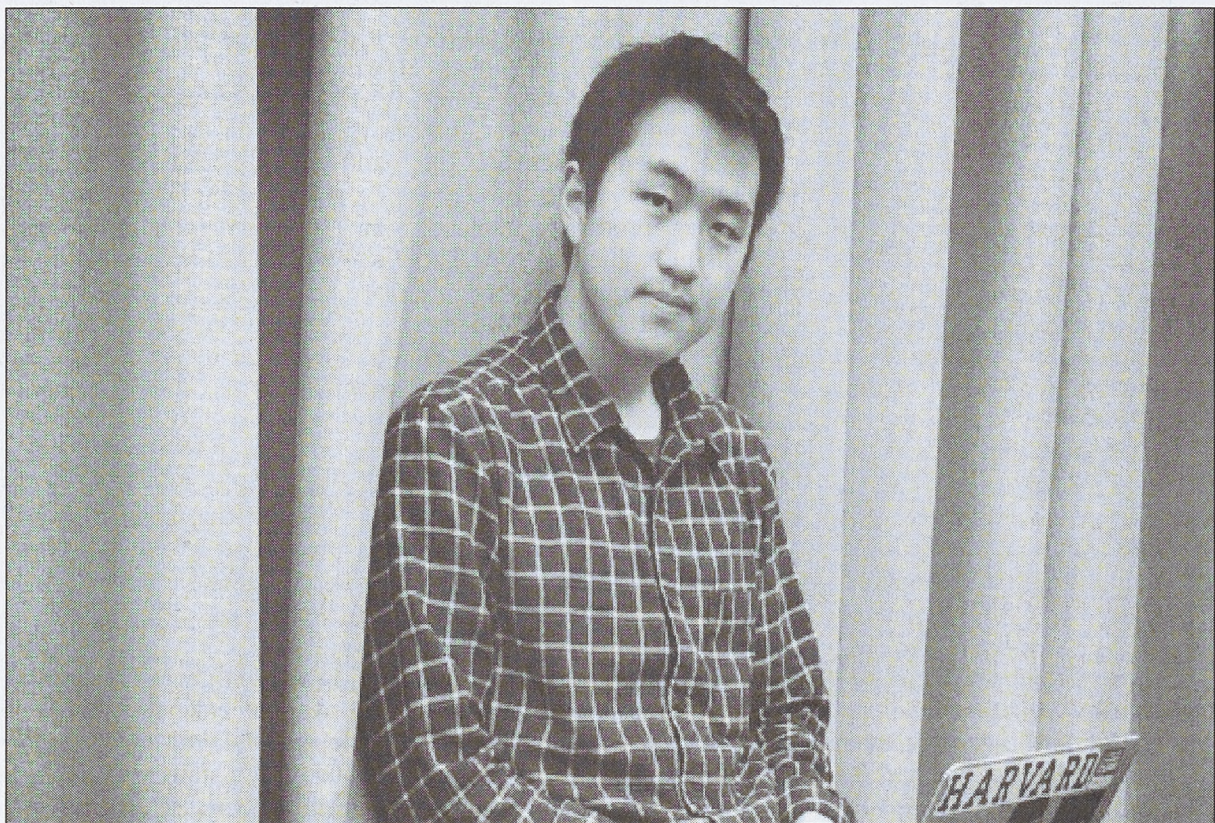
that would allow him to enter the country. He goes on to state that the feelings of exclusion have played important roles and motivation in his life.

The undocumented student does not have a U.S. passport, having no way to travel outside of the country knowing for certain what awaits him. As an immigrant in the United States, you learn the foundational lessons that your talents do not belong to you and that the fruits of your labor must be spread around Park reveals to the Harvard Gazette.

California alone has 242,339 young people who received DACA status between 2012 and March 2017, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Officials estimate 72,300 undocumented students are enrolled in the state's public colleges and universities. Many of these demonized education seekers pose talents and knowledge that others do not.

Life after graduation is a huge fear for many if not all the DACA students. They are our neighbors and have been for most of their lives and have assumed an American culture that is not existent in the regions they are from and to be cast out



WBUR | TONYA MOSLEY

DACA- Jin Park fears deportation from the United States after being awarded the Rhodes Scholarship.

of a society where they can ultimately contribute into the direct advancement of the United States speaks volumes of making America first.

"When I was accepted to Harvard, my parents felt it was

a validation of our lives here. For them this is why we came here, this is why we went through all the things we went through," proclaimed Park.

Throughout history we observe progression working

together building the cultural foundation of us. Sometimes under great leaders but never alone, to rid the country of top educated talents is just plain old stupid.

Valley's lack of recycling is unacceptable

The ASU Commissioner of Campus and Environmental Affairs is looking to make the campus a cleaner learning environment.



SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

Even with climate change being such a huge concern lately, there is shockingly no recycling at Valley College.

With some recycling bins boarded up and others seen being dumped into the garbage, Eddie Kaufman-Morrow, commissioner of campus & environmental affairs, shares that Valley does not recycle but has hopes and is making an effort to change that by taking on new positions and creating awareness for students and faculty on campus.

"We need to help educate not just the students on campus," said Commissioner Kaufman-Morrow, "but the faculty and staff of why it is important to take care of the environment and advocate for change."

The greenhouse effect helps us live on this planet by making Earth have a livable climate, but at the same time, traps in gases that are causing the rise in temperature. Climate change is normal but we are experiencing changes quicker than the Earth and some living things are able to adapt.

One of the easiest things people can do to contribute to the fight against climate change is recycling. No major lifestyle change is needed and it has little thinking involved; simply separate your trash as you go. Recycling helps do things like save water, resources and energy, and helps reduce greenhouse gases.

Kaufman-Morrow created a sustainability coordinator subcommittee to figure out all community colleges in Region VII's progress on a sustainabil-

teer work on campus.

It is unclear why Valley turned down a proper waste management program. Kaufman-Morrow thinks it was due to costs, but luckily he is working hard to help make school environmentally friendly. As the school's renovation is happening and new buildings are being built on campus, Valley should be on the side of helping our planet out with things as simple as recycling.

"I am very interested in educating and creating a conversation," said Kaufman-Morrow. "The beginning of change is through awareness."

The next Trash Awareness Day will be held on December 18 from 1 to 2 p.m. Go to the Skybox Conference Room on the second floor of the Student Union Building to join and if you'd like more information on easy ways you can help stop climate change, visit <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/stopglobalwarming.php>.

"Spring will be a great awakening for Valley," said a hopeful Kaufman-Morrow.

"The beginning of change is through awareness."

-Eddie Kaufman-Morrow

ity program or coordinator and also took on the responsibility as the External Affairs Director for Region VII to be able to communicate with all colleges to see how they run their programs on sustainability and awareness.

"Outreach is the most important piece in all of this," said Kaufman-Morrow when talking about how he wants to create change. "Outreach with equity in mind."

The effort from our commissioner is there, as he knows about and is making moves on mitigating the issue at hand. He has a goal of creating a Trash Awareness Day every month to gather statistics on how much trash is on campus and would also like to create an amendment where students would need to complete five hours of volun-

THE FACTS

Students and faculty collected over 30 pounds of trash on campus during the Trash Awareness Day last month, most of it being cigarette butts.



JESSICA LANGE
ONLINE EDITOR

As if Los Angeles traffic is not hectic enough, now Bird scooters have flooded the streets and littered our sidewalks.

"People who ride them don't follow any traffic laws, because it's not clear whether you're a pedestrian or a vehicle, which makes it difficult for people who drive," said rider Nathan Long to the Los Angeles Times.

Bird scooters- based in Santa Monica and created by former Lyft and Uber executive Travis VanderZanden- are adult-sized, stand-up scooters with a motor that travels up to 15 mph. The concept is similar to Uber or Lyft because it gets users from point A to point B at an affordable cost. The only difference is that users do the driving. Drivers can download the app and pay \$1 plus 15 cents a minute to ride.

"They throw them everywhere: in the ocean, in the sand, in the trash can."

- Robert Johnson Bey

The company has raised \$300 million and remains valued at \$2 billion, which is the fastest startup ever to reach a \$1 billion valuation.

Bird users don't give a flock for safety

The Bird scooters swoop into Los Angeles streets, pestering pedestrians and clogging traffic on both streets and sidewalks.

Of course, riding a Bird is fun for some, but it is not worth

THE FACTS

According to the Verge, Bird scooters are available for short-term rental in over 60 cities in the United States, and are making ground in the Middle East and Europe.

disregarding the safety of others. Birds should obey the same laws as bicycle riders, yet many drive recklessly. In fact, the law only requires drivers under 18 to wear a helmet and many people ride double, which is forbidden.

Driving on the sidewalk is illegal, but there are so many Birds in the LA, San Diego and Bay Area that it is virtually impossible to monitor all of them.

Our sidewalks are under attack by a clattering of Birds. Once a user has fulfilled their use, they may leave it where ever they like to stop their ride.

"I was walking in Santa Monica and nearly tripped on a scooter laying on the sidewalk," said Monica Rodriguez, first-year Valley College student.

"And there are only a few people you see riding with helmets."

Some LA residents have expressed their outrage of the Birds by lighting them on fire, burying them alive and crashing them into each other.

"They throw them everywhere: in the ocean, in the sand, in the trash can," said Robert Johnson Bey, a Venice Beach maintenance worker who regularly comes across scooter parts on the Venice Beach boardwalk.

The city sued Bird for operating without a license and Bird agreed to pay \$300,000 in fines. Bird was required to release a weeklong public safety campaign on public buses, yet the safety rules continue to be ignored.

The concept of Birds is liberating but it opens the door for individuals to abuse a potentially environmental game changer. LA officials reported their first conviction for scooting under the influence.

The driver, Nicholas Kauffroath, pled no contest to one count of operating a motorized scooter while under the influence and one count of hit-and-run after he hit a 64-year-old pedestrian victim.

Even though cars were frowned upon when they first arrive, Birds are different because they put people in danger and are too difficult to police.

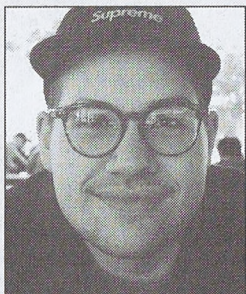
The Bird business model will only function successfully if people will abide by the rules.

VALLEY VIEW

What do you think about how the United States has handled immigration?

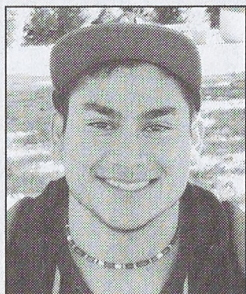
TEXT BY ANDREA GONZALEZ

PHOTOS BY VICENTE VITELA



"I'm not too knowledgeable about it. I know we've been stricter now that Trump is in office."

- NATHAN BOLDA, BUSINESS



"I think it's handled pretty badly. People come from different countries for a better life and better opportunities."

- MARIO RODRIGUEZ, NURSING



"I think they're being savages and I don't think they're being very kind and understanding of people's situations."

- TAYLOR ALCANTAR, CHILD DEVELOPMENT



"I think they should keep it legalized so they can study school and have their own education."

- CHESTER GREGORY, CINEMA



"I think we should take more into consideration as to what the children there are going through."

- LITZY DEL-BALLE, UNDECIDED

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

OPINION

TOMS steps up for gun control

Shoe company Toms makes the largest donation to gun control efforts and offering an option to send letters to local representatives.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

TOMS shoe company is the latest corporation to get involved with gun control efforts by giving \$5 million, the largest corporate donation to the cause to date, after recent tragedies due to gun violence.

Toms founder, Blake Mycoskie, announced on The Tonight Show that his company is making the donation to end gun violence along with a new campaign on their site that makes it easy for any American to send a postcard to their representative to urge passing universal background checks.

"We're gonna do something about it," said Mycoskie to Jimmy Fallon and The Tonight Show. "We're gonna evolve our giving model so TOMS will not only continue to give shoes but we will give considerable resources to the causes and the most important issues of our time."

An emotional Mycoskie explained that he made the decision to do something about the violence after he had a conversation with his wife about the recent Borderline shooting. Afraid to send their child to school, she called for action and Mycoskie decided that he and his company would act.

By creating a way for Americans to send postcards to their representatives pleading for universal background checks and an end to gun violence, TOMS gives people the opportunity to do more than just send a tweet that may or may not be seen and let people get involved with making a change. Many people don't even know where to begin when

90 percent of Americans support universal background checks for gun purchases.

it comes to contributing to a cause but this could be the catalyst for people who want to do more than just wish.

Gun control is not new. In fact, Americans are here for it. Last year, after the attack in Las Vegas' Route 91 Festival, Chris Abele, a Milwaukee County Executive tweeted, "90 percent of Americans 'support universal background checks' for gun purchases." This should be more than loud enough for the government to hear but acting on it has simply not been

done yet.

With 13,312 deaths from gun violence and 323 mass shootings, America has an issue that must be taken care of, as too many have been affected by gun violence. With so many people begging for a call to action, something must be done. There is no room for anyone else to get hurt, but it will absolutely continue until a change is made.

The most recent group to get their stories heard on why gun violence must end are doctors. Doctors have shared their harrowing stories of bullet removal ending with the patient's life being saved but also in tragedy where the patient did not survive.

The hashtag #ThisIsMyLane started after the National Rifle Association tweeted and told doctors to stay in their lane when speaking out about gun violence. The thing is though, this is completely their lane because they are the ones dealing with the aftermath of gun violence.

There is more than enough call to action from Americans who are all scared of what is coming next, the government needs to step up and take care of their people. Too many lives have been lost and continue to be lost the longer gun violence goes on.

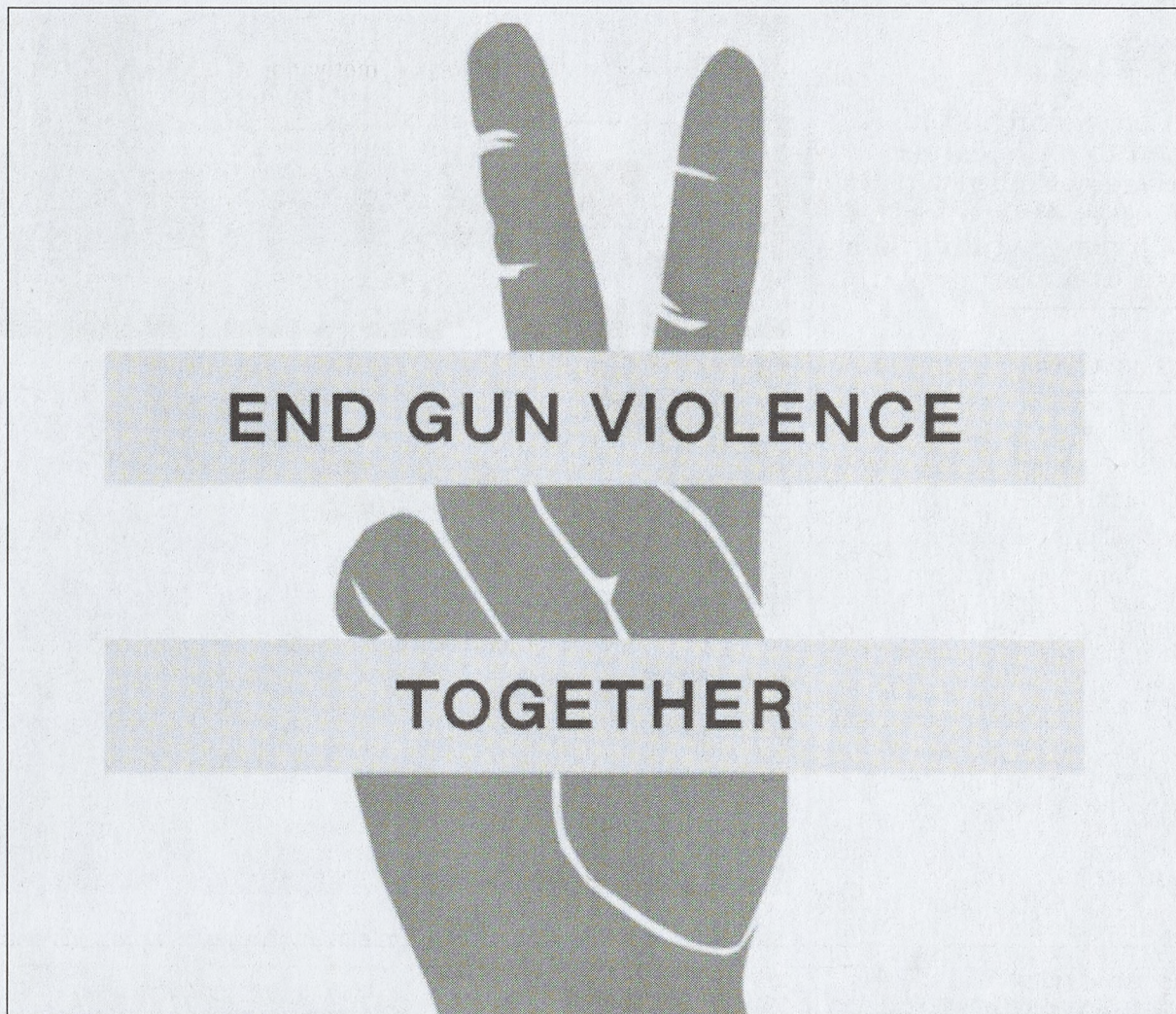


PHOTO COURTESY OF | TOMS

END- TOMS' new campaign calls for an end to gun violence, thier website offers additional information.

Tear gassing women and children is not American

The Trump Administration's lack of compassion towards refugees has made a difficult situation at the border into an international humanitarian crisis.



PUBLIC BROADCASTING NETWORK

RUFUGEES- Border security agents fired tear gas at defenseless fleeing immigrants on the Mexican/American border.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Let's get this out of the way-it is reprehensible to gas women and children seeking refuge. Being within the legal right to commit such types of tyrannical and suppressive actions does not make it ethically right.

The core problem here is the lack of empathy from the Donald Trump Administration in dealing with an issue they have intentionally exacerbated for political gain.

It begins with the caravan of refugees Trump and Republicans warned Americans about, describing them as dangerous criminals or camouflage for terrorists, even though no evidence of this has been found. A strict diet of fear and subtle racism against a mass of dispossessed people has led directly to policy at the American border.

On Twitter Trump said, "We

would save Billions of Dollars if the Democrats would give us the votes to build the Wall. Either way, people will NOT be allowed

...if Trump has his way the shining beacon on the hill will have put out the light.

into our Country illegally! We will close the entire Southern Border if necessary. Also, STOP THE DRUGS!"

These dire warnings faded into nothing after the midterms, but the aggressive posture of Trump's administration remains spiteful. Seeking asylum is a right of the international community, one for which America has already established policies.

Instead of adjusting those policies to deal adequately with the asylum-seekers at the border, the president opted to restrict the influx at a time when properly processing incoming people was needed most. Several sources, such as CNN and the Washington Post, have reported that the Trump administration has throttled entry at legal ports along the border. By closing legal ports of entry (or throttling them to the point of being closed) the president gave desperate people no choice other than illegal immigration.

Trump has purposely made illegal immigration a better option.

He has also created a situation that is so dire, the international community is referring to it as a crisis. Camps of people who have crossed several countries have sprung up creating the worst of conditions on America's doorstep. CNN's Chris Cuomo showed in a special report the unsanitary conditions at the border and the lack of basic resources

that many immigrants have been denied.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore" reads a poem by Emma Lazarus at the base of the Statue of liberty. "Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door," but if Trump has his way, the shining beacon on the hill will have put out the light.

TWITTER

See anything interesting on campus or around Valley College?

Tweet us

@ValleyStarNews.

Follow us on Twitter to stay up to date on school events and stories!

Mass shootings more of a psychological issue?

Because of the hundreds of mass shootings happening in the United States maybe it is time we looked at this from a psychological angle.

URI VAKNIN
STAFF WRITER

In recent years, the nation has seen random mass shootings throughout the country and it is, unfortunately, showing no signs of stopping.

With the recent shooting in Thousand Oaks and the countless others that preceded it, there is much debate as to what should be done regarding this issue.

There is talk of stricter gun laws and more thorough background checks, but what is the reason that this problem is so prevalent and reoccurring in this country and no other? What is it about the way our American society functions that results in these growing anomalies to snap and hurt other people?

Dr. James Knoll, a leading forensic psychiatrist with an expertise in mass murderers, describes how the perpetrators are usually young males who have already had a long-standing fascination with weapons and firearms. These individuals also tend to share similar psychological issues which manifest into violent hatred.

These perpetrators held intense grudges against either real or falsely perceived personal transgressions and spend prolonged periods of time dwelling in their pains. They tend to develop a highly paranoid outlook on the world feeling separated and isolated from it.

While others enjoy the pleasures of everyday life, the individual feels incapable of doing so and in turn build resentment towards others for it. They resort to violent and vengeful fantasies in response to their seemingly unattainable desires, whatever they may be, and then find a

dangerously skewed sense of power in public retribution due to their sense of entitlement.

The individual would then proceed to kill others for their inability to recognize or satisfy their needs. The now mass murderer usually expects death at the end of their rampage, either at their own hands or by police.

Some motives can vary whether they are politically or racially driven, or whether it's due to a genuine mental illness like schizophrenia, but many of them share the same disconnected resentment towards society at large.

The issue does require some attention as its frequency is showing no signs of slowing down, with over hundreds of mass shootings happening yearly throughout the country. It is, unfortunately, becoming a norm, and perhaps understanding their motives can help narrow down possible solutions.

There is a lot of discussion on stricter gun control laws with background checks that require mental health examinations as well as raising the legal age to possess one given how young many of the shooters are.

However, it is possible that these methods might not have much of an impact as the would-be shooters can resort to illegal purchasing of the weapons they're after.

Shifting the focus on mental healthcare treatments, especially in troubled youths, may remedy this issue to an extent. It could help prevent at least one kid from heading down that dark path and adding another atrocity to the already long list we have.

SPORTS

Valley adds pro experience to baseball team

After starting off his road to a pro career at Valley College, Josh Goossen-Brown looks to help players fulfill their own dreams.

JOSEPH GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's newest pitching coach Josh Goossen-Brown comes back to help out the school that helped his baseball dreams come true.

After graduating from Norte Dame High School, Goossen-Brown came to Valley in 2010 looking for the best opportunity to accomplish one of his goals: to play baseball at a division one level. He made that dream a reality after just one season and was playing for CSUN, then for University of San Diego the following season. He looks forward to guiding players at Valley on their own careers.

"I was able to make one of my dreams come true by getting a college scholarship because of the opportunity I had at Valley," Coach Goossen-Brown said. "So now I want to give some players that same opportunity."

Challenges are a part of life and baseball. Goossen-Brown realized this throughout his play-

"Good advice and lots of positive energy is what he brings every day to the field."

- Sebastian Zepeda

ing career after suffering injuries and not getting into the school he planned to. Using his experience to help out this team through the highs and lows of the season is something he looks forward to accomplishing.

"My playing career has been filled with ups and downs, so I know some of the struggles the players go through," Goossen-Brown said. "I hope I can help get them through the tough times and allow them to reach their highest potential."

Leading his pitching staff through the various trials is going to take Goossen-Brown a different approach from his playing style. The former third baseman and pitcher lead the teams he played on through his play. Leading by example, he excelled at being a vocal leader, however, it was not his strong suit. Coaching will require these skills, although he has already shown these new skills on the field so far.

"It's been a good surprise, he was really quiet when he was here," Head Coach Dave Mallas said. "He was a leader for us but through his actions and the way he went about his business. So seeing him communicate with the players is excellent for us."

After playing collegiate ball, Goossen-Brown went on to play for the Chicago White Sox organization for two years. He has played under many coaches with many different coaching styles. He has created his own style that has worked for him and players so far: being a player-coach and relating to the players and being able to be comfortable with one another.

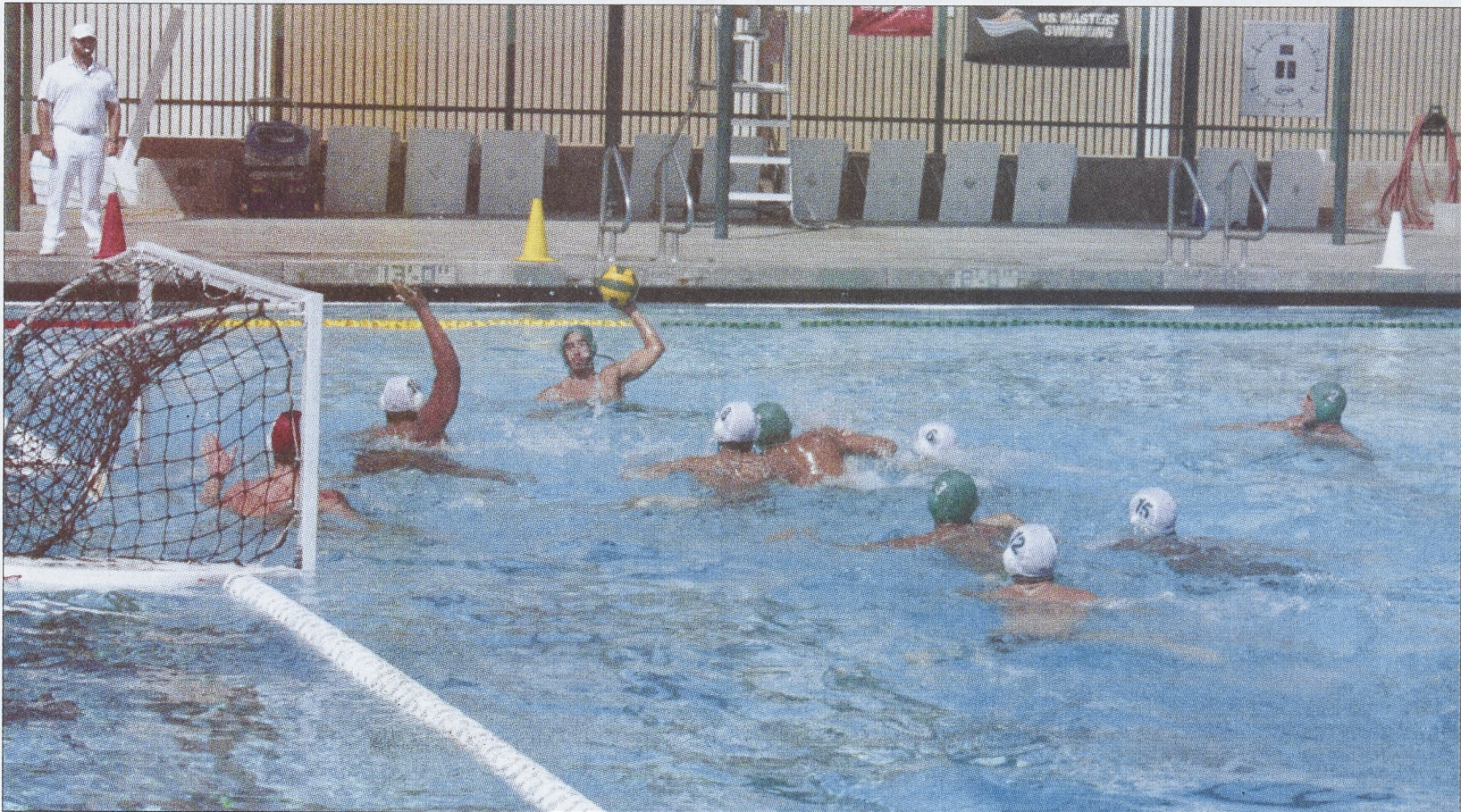
"He puts all effort into helping you until you figure it out," freshmen pitcher Sebastian Zepeda said. "Good advice and lots of positive energy is what he brings every day to the field."

This upcoming season will be Coach Goossen-Brown's first time coaching at a junior college level. He comes from coaching one season at Norte Dame High School. He will be there every step of the way with his pitchers to spread his knowledge from his own experiences at every level he played.

"I'm looking forward to seeing all the hard work we've put in this fall payoff during the season," Goossen-Brown said.

Men's water polo finishes second in the SoCal Regionals

The men's water polo team becomes the first in Valley College's history to reach the state championships.



VALLEY STAR | VICENTE VITELA

MONARCHS- The Men's Water Polo team playing in a previous game, earning what no other Valley College sports team has in the end.

VICENTE VITELA
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite falling to rival Golden West College 11-6 in the SoCal regionals, the Valley College Men's Water Polo team still managed to accomplish a feat that the program has never seen.

"The goal was to qualify and we did just that, and it's the first time in school history a team has reached the state championship," said Head Coach Jim McMillan, after the loss at Cerritos College.

The Monarchs headed into the weekend as the number two ranked team in the state, but had to face another rival before qualifying for state title: The Long Beach City College Vikings, one of the only two teams to beat

them in the regular season. The Monarchs exploded at the whistle and jumped out to a commanding 13-1 lead by the end of the first period, with the team showing why they deserved their number two ranking.

"Their work ethic, good sophomore leadership, and buying in," said McMillan when describing the team's attributes.

The Vikings, however, would not go away quietly as they held the Monarchs scoreless in the next two periods and making it just a five-point game heading into the last period. Fortunately for Valley College, the Monarchs were able to settle in defensively and hold off a late-game rally by Long Beach to advance to the regional championship game with a 13-10 victory.

"It felt good to beat Long Beach," said McMillan.

The SoCal Regional Championship game shaped up to be featured the Golden West Rustlers against Valley College was the fifth time this season that the Rustlers and Monarchs would face off against one another, with the Rustlers winning the first four. After the end of the first period, Golden West had scored three goals. However, Valley College was right on their heels by scoring two goals of their own. The second period saw the Monarchs go scoreless while their rivals would splash a two spot on the board, giving them a 5-2 lead heading into the half.

The third period would see Golden West extend their lead to 7-2, but this would not stop the Monarchs as they rallied back to score three goals of their own in the period, decreasing the defi-

cit to just two points going into the last period.

In the end, however, it was Golden West who would get their hands raised, holding on for a 11-6 victory over Valley for a consecutive SoCal Regional Championship.

By finishing second, the Monarchs still advance to the CCCAA state championships, where they face West Valley for a shot at the state championship game. From there, a sixth possible matchup against Golden West could loom but the Monarchs are focused solely on West Valley.

"First beat West Valley, and have no mistakes while staying together," said McMillan on what needs to happen to win it all.

Monarchs Fall athletics year in review

Monarchs soccer, football, and water polo all brought toughness and attitude into the 2018 season.

VICENTE VITELA
SPORTS EDITOR

2018 was a great year for Monarch athletics and the fall semester was proof of that with two teams making the playoffs, and one of them going all the way to the California State Championship.

The Monarch's men's water polo team made the biggest splash in 2018 by reaching the California State Championship game for the first time ever, and ranking 2nd in the state, its highest ranking ever.

Coach Jim McMillan, and the rest of the water polo team, would start the season off strong by defeating the Golden West Rustlers, a team that had not been beaten in over two years. Throughout the course of the season, the Rustlers, and the Monarchs would lock horns three more times, with Valley College being on the losing end of those affairs, with each contest being decided by two points or fewer.

"I'm very proud of our boy," said McMillan before the state championship.

The team would finish the season with just four losses, but this would not stop them from winning their fifth straight Western State Conference title, defeating Cuesta College 16-9.

Although the Monarchs would lose in the SoCal Regionals to Golden West 16-11 in the State Championship game, the Monarchs would have one more opportunity to take down The Rustlers, but would come up just short losing by a score of 12-10. What Coach McMillan, and the boys did this year is an example of what Monarchs athletics is all about, and we hope to see the same level of competitiveness next year.

"This competition is good



PHOTO COURTESY OF | NEIL G. PHILLIPS

FOOTBALL- Though Valley College put up a fight, they lost to Allen Hancock College 26-16.

for the sport, and it's good to see someone beside Long Beach and Golden West," said McMillan.

Lady Monarch's athletics also made strides this year as the women's soccer team kicked their way to a playoff spot, after a two year drought. The team would start off hot, winning eight of their first 10 games. Valley would eventually cool off as the injury bug hit the team forcing Coach Greg Venger and his staff to shake things up.

"We had a little more depth than last year and this team has a little more grit," said Venger.

The Lady Monarchs would put themselves in a situation where they controlled their own destiny, as they needed to not lose in any of their final four games of the season. Coach Venger and his girls would do just that, going 3-0-1 and making

it to the playoffs, something the team hasn't done since 2015. Valley would draw Pierce College in their first matchup and would come up short in this contest losing, 1-0. What the Lady Monarchs were able to do this season given the injuries and being forced to win out the season, there is no doubt that this squad with Coach Venger at the helm is here to stay and will be competitive for years to come.

"It became difficult as the injuries piled up, nevertheless, the girls have stayed positive and bought in all year long," said Venger.

Monarch's football in 2019 saw Head Coach Mathew White in his second year at the helm, and there was not much of a sophomore slump as he improved the teams overall record to 7-3 as compared to last year's disap-

pointing 4-6 record. The team, however, would not earn a bowl game, making it two years in a row that Monarch's football will go without a bowl appearance.

The Monarchs stumbled out of the gate, losing two of their first three games, with one of those games seeing the team lose by 30 points. This did not discourage the team, as they would bounce back by winning three in a row before losing a tough game to Chaffey College 29-27, which pretty much killed any chance Valley had at a bowl game. With an improved record and another season under his belt, it is safe to say that Coach White is capable of making the necessary adjustments at this collegiate level. Now the question is, can he return Monarchs Football to its known dominance?

The Valley Star

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